

Monday, August 27, 2007



THE DAILY BEAT

This publication is provided by the [Governor's Office of Indian Affairs](#) and the [State-Tribal Economic Development Commission](#). The Daily Beat provides daily updates, announcements and articles relevant to Indian Country in Montana. Current and archived issues can be found on the [State-Tribal Economic Development Commission](#) website. Questions? Email Billie Rusek @ brusek@mt.gov or Heather Sobrepeña-George at hsobrepena@mt.gov

MONTANA TRIBAL NEWS:

INTERIM DIRECTOR EXCITED FOR FUTURE OF HELENA INDIAN ALLIANCE

By MARGA LINCOLN - IR Staff Writer - 08/25/07



Eliza Wilev IR Photo Editor

Nicholas Vrooman, the new interim director for the Helena Indian Alliance, speaks passionately about his job recently in his office on Last Chance Gulch.

Helena Indian Alliance's interim executive director Nicholas Vrooman sees an exciting future for HIA.

And he's excited at the opportunity to meet both the Indian and larger Helena community at Sunday's annual picnic.

Vrooman brings many skills to his new job. He's been a teacher, scholar, historian, folklorist, grant writer and author.

He also brings a passion for the community.

"I have a great love for this Indian community and the broader Helena community," he said.

OUR TURN AT BAT: PROPOSED FEDERAL LEGISLATION WOULD CREATE EQUITY IN CHILD WELFARE FUNDING

by: TERRY CROSS & JACQUELINE JOHNSON, Indian Country Today® (08/24/07)

As executive director of the National Indian Child Welfare Association and the executive director of the National Congress of American Indians, we have seen licensed Indian foster families struggle to provide quality care for poor children with no financial assistance from the federal government. Because of a gap in federal law, which does not provide equal access to federal foster care funds to tribes and the children and families in their care, tribal programs struggle to provide needed supports and services to relatives who want to get their nieces or nephews out of foster care to raise them - with few successes; and tribes, kin and Indian parents can be forced to give up custody of a child just to get them services because the wording in 27-year-old legislation leaves tribal children ineligible for federal resources to which all other poor children are "entitled." A full generation of American Indian children has grown up, thousands of them in the foster care system, since American Indians first began to advocate for equal access to federal child welfare funding.

COUNTDOWN TO TRIBAL ELECTIONS

By BONNIE RED ELK, Fort Peck Journal (08/23/07)

It is now a 2-way race for the Tribal Chairman with the recent sign-up of AT Rusty Stafne, 72, Wolf Point, this week. He joins Vice-Chair Roxanne Gorneau, 47, also of Wolf Point, as the only two candidates for chairman.

Also, as of yesterday, August 22, three current council members (incumbents) have also filed for reelection. In the order they filed, Richard Kim, Walter Clark and Bill Whitehead.

New candidates, also in order that they file, Myra Grace Pipe, Wolf Point; Louis Peterson, Wolf Point; Patt iron Cloud, Wolf Point; Charles headdress Sr., poplar; George Blount, Wolf Point; Clarice Adams White Cloud, Fort Kipp; Ray White Tail Feather, Poplar; and Gail Witsit Johnson, Poplar.

Candidates have until Tuesday, September 11, 2007 at 4:30pm to file. Also, if you are registering to vote, you must have the necessary paperwork in by the same date and time.

Fort Peck Procedures for Non-resident Voter Registration (as published in the Wotanin

Wowapi 08/23/07)

1. Request a Voter Registration Card by calling or writing the Fort Peck Tribes at 406-768-5155.
2. Present Voter Registration Form to a Notary Public, sign the form as prescribed. The form must be notarized as per the updated Election Ordinance.
3. Mail the form back to the following address:
 - a. Voter Registration
Fort Peck Tribes
PO Box 1027
Poplar, MT 59255

If you so desire, you can submit a written request for an absentee ballot along with the form. The request must contain the address you want the ballot to be shipped and your signature.

The Voter Registration Card must be mailed in time to arrive at the Tribal Offices by 4:30 pm on Tuesday, September 11, 2007.

The fee is ½ of 1% of the gross salary rounded off to the nearest \$10.00

Chairman	\$53,244	\$270.00
Vice Chair	\$50,024	\$250.00
TEB	\$47,215	\$240.00
Sgt-at-Arms	\$47,215	\$240.00

ATTENTION: (as published in the Wotanin Wowapi 08/23/07)

Fort Peck tribal members, who are currently incarcerated, are eligible to vote in the upcoming Tribal Elections on Oct. 27, 2007. If those, who want to vote, are not registered, they can submit a written request for a registration form to Jackie Weeks, Tribal Operations Officer for the Fort Peck Tribes at PO Box 1027, Poplar, MT 59255. At the same time they can also request for an absentee ballot. The request can be made after the last day to file as a candidate, which is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2007.